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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,585	07/07/2003	Michiaki Otani	9333/352	8983

7590   09/21/2007

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/615,585	OTANI, MICHIAKI
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jakieda R. Jackson	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *10 September 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 26,

2007 has been entered and the supplemental amendment has been addressed.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant argues that the revised language in the independent claims clarifies

that the "translating "performed by a "spelling translator" is the translation of the spelling

of an original text item,and the new claim language breaks down this limitation into more

discret portions. Further, the claims now clarify that spelling translation begins by first

identifying a character or string in the original text item that is not included in the

alphabet of the second language. If such a character/string in the original text item is

identified, then it is replaced with a character/string in the alphabet of the second

language having an equivalent or similar pronunciation.

Referring to Applicant's drawings, it shows that for each and every word, there

may not be a character or string that is replaced by a character or sting that is not

included in the alphabet of the second language. It appears, for example, figure 4C

shows that before translation the word is "ABBEY" and after translation, the word is

"ABBEY", the before translation word of "ACCESS" is translated to "ACCESS", the

before translation of the word "ACRES" is translated to "ACRES", the before translation

of the word "ALCOVE" is translated to the word "ALCOVE". It is not until further down

the table of Figure 4C where there is an actual character or string replacement with a

character or string not included in the alphabet of the second language (e.g. ALLEE' is

replaced with ALEE, that being deleting on of the "L" and removing the accent, which

the accent is not included in the alphabet of the second language.

Renegar teaches both methods also. Regenar teaches identifying a character or

string in the original text item that is not included in the alphabet of the second language

(e.g. column 22, lines 25-29 shows oc'eano being translated to ocean, where the

"hypen over the c" is removed since it is not a part of the second language alphabet and

the "o" is removed. Column 24, lines 1-6 teaches fu'tbol being translated to football,

where the "hyphen over the u" is removed since it is not a part of the second language

alphabet and the "o" is replaced with an "al". Column 29, lines 1-9 disclose sue'ter

being translated to sweater where "the hyphen over the e" is replaced with "wea" since it

is not a part of the second language alphabet).

Another way to look at the claim language is that Regenar teaches identifying a

character or string in the original text item that is not included in the alphabet of the

second language implying that the alphabet string "mucho" in Spanish, translating to

"much" in English, is not a part of the English alphabet character string. Also, the

alphabet string "vitamina" in Spanish, translating to "vitamin" in English, is not a part of

the English alphabet character string (column 26, lines 30-50). Further, the alphabet

string "cuarto" in Spanish, translating to "quarter" in English, is not a part of the English

alphabet character string and the alphabet string "yardah" in Spanish, translating to "yard" in English, is not a part of the English alphabet character string (column 27, lines 15-25). The alphabet string "ejemplo" in Spanish, translating to "example" in English, is not a part of the English alphabet character string (column 28, lines 46-50). These examples do not exist in the both languages, has been replaced as described above and all of these examples given have similar pronunciation of the character or string in the first language.

Also, Regenar teaches that the method can be adapted to accommodate dual or multiple language systems, for instance English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English; or English-to-Spanish, English-to-French, and English-to-German (column 39, lines 59-63).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4.   **Claims 1-6 and 11-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Renegar (USPN 6,024,571).

Regarding **claims 1 and 11**, Renegar discloses an automated voice generator and method (computer system; column 38, line 66 – column 39, line 5), hereinafter

referenced as a voice generator for generating a voice output in the pronunciation of a

second language corresponding to a text item in a different first language, comprising:

a spelling translator (column 27, lines 26-38 and column 32, lines 44-46) for

automatically translating the spelling of an original text item in the first language into a

new text item by:

(i) identifying a character or string in the original text item that is not included in

the alphabet of the second language (column 22, lines 25-29 and column 24, lines 1-6

with column 29, lines 1-9), and

(ii) replacing an identified character or string in the original text item with a

character or string in the alphabet of the second language having a pronunciation

equivalent or similar to the pronunciation of the identified character or string in the first

language (column 22, lines 25-29 and column 24, lines 1-6 with column 29, lines 1-9

and column 26, lines 30-50 and column 27, lines 15-25 with column 28, lines 46-50);

and

means for generating voice by pronouncing the new text item according to the

pronunciation of the second language (column 5, lines 64-67).

Regarding **claim 2**, Renegar discloses a voice generator according wherein the

original text item comprises place name text items assigned to respective places

(column 13, lines 52-67).

Regarding **claims 3 and 12**, Renegar discloses a voice generator wherein the

first language character or string and the second language character or string are

included in a place name text item representing a place name (column 13, lines 52-67

with column 16, lines 40-67 and column 17, line 56 – column 18, line 35 with column 25, lines 6-30).

Regarding **claims 4 and 13**, Renegar discloses a voice generator wherein the first language character or string is in French and the second language character or string is in English (column 39, lines 59-63).

Regarding **claims 5 and 14**, Renegar discloses a voice generator wherein the first language character or string is in Spanish and the second language character or string is in English (column 39, lines 59-63).

Regarding **claims 6 and 15**, Renegar discloses a voice generator wherein the first language character or string is in German and the second language character or string is in English (column 39, lines 59-63).

Regarding **claim 16**, it is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claims 1 and 11. In addition Regenar teaches a navigation apparatus for guiding users, comprising:

a map database for storing geographic information containing a place name text item representing each place name (navigating in areas; column 13, lines 52-67);

means for reading out the place name text item from the map database (streets, roads, destinations, landmarks, etc.; column 13, lines 52-67); and

means for generating voice by pronouncing the new text item according to the pronunciation of the second language (column 5, lines 64-67).

Regarding **claim 17**, Regenar teaches an apparatus wherein the spelling translator conducts spelling translation by referring to replacement rules identified in a

translation rule table (column 20, lines 37-46 and column 21, line 59 – column 22, line

4) that associates a character or string in the first language that is not included in the

alphabet of the second language with a character or string in the alphabet of the second

language having an equivalent or similar pronunciation (column 22, lines 25-29 and

column 24, lines 1-6 with column 29, lines 1-9 and column 26, lines 30-50 and column

27, lines 15-25 with column 28, lines 46-50).

Regarding **claim 18**, Regenar discloses and apparatus wherein the spelling

translator operates to conduct spelling between any of a plurality of first languages and

the second language (column 22, lines 25-29 and column 24, lines 1-6 with column 29,

lines 1-9 and column 26, lines 30-50 and column 27, lines 15-25 with column 28, lines

46-50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6.   **Claims 7-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Renegar in view of Conkie (USPN 6,173,263).

Regarding **claim 7**, it is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set

forth in claims 1 and 11, but does not specifically teach translating abbreviated text.

Conkie discloses an apparatus wherein it translates abbreviated text (column 4, lines 31-57), in order to determine the syntactic structure of the sentence, so that it can be spoken with the proper intonation.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Regenar's generator such that it comprises translating abbreviated text, as taught by Conkie, in order to distinguish sentence boundaries and to expand abbreviations into a pronounceable form (column 4, lines 31-31-57).

Conclusion

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jakieda R. Jackson whose telephone number is 571-272-7619. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 5:30am-2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JRJ
September 14, 2007

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